GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
NOC for Projects
Rathore Shri Hariom Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether projects from various States/UTs pertaining to water resources, transport and other development schemes meant for social welfare are pending in the absence of No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the time since the said projects are pending and the time-bound programme of the Government for quick clearance thereof;
(c) the number and details of international highways/national highways, dams, canals projects which have been obstructed in the absence of NOC; and
(d) the action plan prepared by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change grants Environment Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance (FC) to projects as per the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 respectively. Developmental projects located inside the Protected Areas (PA) or within 10 km distance of the PA [in case the Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) has not been notified] or the notified ESZ around the PA will require the recommendation of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. A list of pending projects for EC, FC and wildlife recommendation is enclosed as annexure.

(d) The major initiatives taken by the Ministry to streamline the process of EC, FC and wildlife recommendation, inter-alia include use of information technology, increasing of Regional Offices from six to ten, constitution of Regional Empowered Committees (REC), delegation of powers to Regional Office for forest diversion, grant of FC by RECs for linear projects, delegation of more powers to State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs), standardization of Terms of Reference for all sectors, finalisation of ToRs within 30 days, general approval for roads and other strategic infrastructure in area of 100 km from line of actual control, general approvals for two lane roads in 117 Left Wing Extremism districts, exemption to highway projects in border states from scoping requirement and exempting linear projects in border states from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions, delegation of powers to District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by District Magistrate/District Collector for mining of minor minerals including sand, constitution of additional Expert Appraisal Committees, regular meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committees, review of pending projects at various levels in the government etc.

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